We extend a warm welcome to all our parishioners, all new members and guests celebrating with us today.

We are a Catholic Community, rooted in the Trinity, sustained by the Eucharist and the Word of God, called to witness, to serve and to educate.

September 13, 2020
Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Parish Office: 973-835-0480 / 0489
Fax: 973-835-3277
Email: stfrancis@optonline.net / frgregg@optonline.net
Website: stfrancishaskell.org
C.C.D.: 973-835-1946

PARISH MEMBERSHIP
You are invited to join our parish family. We are committed to meeting the needs of all members. Please register by contacting our Parish Office. (Please notify the Parish Office of change in address or phone number and if you are moving out of the parish.)

RELIGIOUS DEVOTIONS
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena is on Monday after 8:00 am Mass
Novena Prayers in Honor of the Blessed Mother and St. Anthony: Are said every Tuesday after 8:00 am Mass
Prayer Group: Meets at 11:00 am - every Thursday
Adoration: Every Friday after Mass
Divine Mercy: Daily recitation of Chaplet after Mass

MINISTRIES
Join the various ministries and associations:
Ministry of Lector, Eucharist, Usher, altar server, Respect Life and Lazarus Ministry, St. Francis Ladies Guild, Emmaus Prayer Group, Youth Group, Carnival, Knights of Columbus and other volunteers associated with the Church of St. Francis of Assisi.

PARISH COUNCIL [TRUSTEES & FINANCES]
Mr. Ron Morano • Mrs. Claire Kressaty • Mr. Dale Ostrander
Mr. Tom Luciani • Mr. Bill Boswell

TREASURER & ACCOUNTS
Mrs. Jane Wright & Mrs. Melissa Rivera

RESEARCH EDUCATION OFFICE / 973-835-1946
Mrs. Maryann Marren, Coordinator
Mrs. Betty Norton, Secretary

YOUTH MINISTRY / 973-835-0480
Our youth ministry is open to all Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grade students. Come join us.

BAPTISM: Parishioners are welcome to have their children baptized at St. Francis of Assisi. Please call the rectory for an appointment to discuss the arrangements.

SACRAMENT OF Penance: Saturday: 4:30-5:00 pm or at other times upon request.

MARRIAGE: Arrangements to be made at least 1 year in advance by calling the Parish Office.

R.C.I.A.: Anyone interested in an update of their faith or wanting to become Catholic, call the Parish Office.

MINISTRY OF THE SICK AND ELDERLY: For the confined, elderly and/or shut-in, be they at home or in the hospital, please call the Rectory. Holy Communion is offered to any person permanently or temporarily homebound. For the seriously sick and dying contact the Rectory immediately.

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2020
7:30 A.M. Parishioners
Agnes & William A. Cori
Rosa Soler
10:00 A.M. Benjamin Glorioso
Sr. Annette Luchesse, OSF
Sinforiani M. Raz
12 NOON Mr. & Mrs. Peter Caporale
Frosty Lawson
Francis Paul

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2020
8:00 A.M. Teresa & Joe Tachine
Joseph Gardella

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2020
8:00 A.M. Susan O’Keefe
Intentions of Ella Corchado

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2020
8:00 A.M. Josephine Cenci
Intentions of Olivia Salvato

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2020
8:00 A.M. Susan “Suzie” Davis

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2020
5:30 P.M. Ralph Cortellessa
Kathy Weckler
Michael Gurliaccio

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2020
7:30 A.M. Parishioners
Mikalina & John Bullet
Kathy Hivish
10:00 A.M. Emilia Glorioso
Benjamin Glorioso
Intentions of Dom & Dorothy Cortellessa
12 NOON Elaine Arendas
Charlene Barbagallo

Pray daily for our servicemen and women serving their country.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:
Mary Carton Jacob Hicks Judy Moran Gary Ragusa
Ava Rae Nebbia Matthew Polifonte Lois Maskley
Evelyn Means Bob Delventhail Ryder Sasso
George Link Michael Soojian Valentina Manuele
Susan Nichols-Boggio Jacqueline Altamore
Mike Tidaback Robert Moreno Lydia Rivera
Jerome Foray Loretta LaSala Infant Ronan Suatoni

Patrick Keegan Manuel Esguerra Michael Gotti
Marianne Dorn Robert Nebbia Christopher Berry
Frank Polglaze Sharon Acquaire Noah Lorencoitz
Florence Grim Josephine Venezia Alex Coronel
Geraldine Kearns Alice Roslund Alejandro Salcedo
Bernie Shushan Jean’na Wojik Post Jessica Skorubski

DECEASED: Elizabeth Marren

WEEKLY COLLECTION
Sunday, September 6, 2020 - $4,775.00
Thank you for your continued support.

WEEKLY REFLECTION
Dear Friends in Christ,
Jesus tells his disciples - ‘The parable of the unforgiving servant.’ And in this parable Jesus gives us a vivid picture of how what we are being asked to do, fits into the wider context of that Divine mercy. The sheer immensity of God's mercy to us should encourage us out of to show a little mercy to our fellow human beings.

The forgiving master. First, let us look at the parable which follows Jesus' words. It is a parable about a servant who owed a huge debt to the king, which he could never had any hope of paying back. So, his master ordered him to be sold, along with his wife, his children and all his property. So, he fell down, did homage, and pleaded his master to be patient with him and he would pay back in full. Moved with compassion the master let him go and forgave the debt altogether. Clearly in the parable, the ruler’s generosity brings to mind the generosity of God. “The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.” We humans have been forgiven by God, a debt so enormous that we could never pay for it. It is the debt of our sins and all its consequences like the enmity with God.

The unforgiving servant. When the same servant left the king, he saw his fellow servant who owed him a much smaller amount. He had no sympathy for the poor man who owed him a much smaller amount, even though his own creditor had just
released him from a much greater debt. He demanded that he be paid immediately. When the latter fell on his knees and repeated verbatim what the first servant earlier said to the king, instead of doing as his master did, he had him thrown into prison until he paid the debt. When this was reported to the king, he called for the unforgiving servant and told him, “You wicked servant! ... Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?” This clearly shows us that God expects us too, to forgive others, when He Himself has forgiven us. We are invited to compare our unforgiving spirit with the boundless generosity of our God.

The forgiveness revoked. The parable of the unforgiving servant reminds us that God is always ready to forgive, but He expects us to forgive others too. The Parable thus raises the frightening prospect that pardon already granted by God could be revoked. The king who forgave his servant his debt meant it. When the servant went out and failed to forgive his fellow servant, the king revoked the pardon. Is this a good analogy of how God deals with us? This is precisely the central point of Jesus' parable of the unforgiving servant. He uses the parable in order to draw a direct contrast between the unforgiving servant, and God the Father who always forgives. Jesus tells us that his heavenly Father will also do to every one of them, if they do not forgive their brother or sister from their heart. This indeed is a frightening thought.

SILVER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS
Couples, were you married in 1995? The Diocese of Paterson invites you to celebrate your 25th wedding anniversary during a special Mass to be offered at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Paterson, NJ. Bishop Sweeney will serve as main celebrant on this joyful occasion to be held: Sunday, November 8th, 2020 at 3:30pm. Arrangements can be made by contacting the parish office. The deadline to register is Thursday, October 1st, 2020. You will receive additional information from the Office of Family Life once your registration has been processed. Congratulations on this joyous occasion!

Wanaque Wellness in coordination with
The Passaic County Health Dept.
&
Kressaty’s Pharmacy
Presents Drive-Thru
Annual Adult Immunization Clinic

HD Influenza, Quadrivalent Flu vaccine, will be available

Saturday, September 12, 2020
9AM-1PM
At Passaic County Community College
500 Union Ave., Haskell, N.J.

Memo: This is the only Adult immunization clinic this year!

Your partner in health,
Bernadett McDavitt R.N. P.H.N.

BISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL

The Bishop’s Annual Appeal is getting a face lift. (Or more like a ‘name lift’!) The name of the Bishop’s Annual Appeal has been changed and will now be known as the Diocesan Ministries Appeal. So, if you get a letter from Bishop Sweeney in the next week or so asking you to support the Diocesan Ministries Appeal – please know that this is the new name of the Annual Appeal. While the name has changed, the work of the Diocesan Ministries Appeal will continue to focus on the important ministries that it always has and will continue to serve thousands of people throughout our Diocese. Thank you for your support!
LITURGY OF THE WORD
The 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The theme of today’s Mass is ‘Mercy’ and, more specifically, God’s mercy toward sinners. However, when we think of ‘mercy’ we usually think of it as an antidote for some harm done to us or to others. It can be physical, mental, verbal, etc. but we most often think about it in terms of combating or balancing violence and we want to settle the score.

Now stop and look at the above sentences. The word ‘think’ is there three times. We don’t give much thought to our giving mercy and yet, we are always asking God for His mercy and are impatient when it is not forthcoming as quickly as we want. Let us see what the following scriptures have to say about this.

The First Reading is from the Book of Sirach (27:30-28:7 [130A]). In this passage, from the great sage of wisdom whom we call Sirach, we have a few examples of evil and a whole list of antidotes or words of wisdom to rectify those evils and avoid others. Together these are valuable instructions that embody both examples of evil and of mercy and he asks us to see where we fit into this picture and then sums it up with a version of the second most important commandment: “Love thy neighbor as thyself.”

The Responsorial Psalm is (103:1-4, 9-12). This psalm is a prayer that anyone who has experienced mercy might offer after a serious problem. God looks at the heart of a person more than his actions.

The Second Reading is from St. Paul’s Letter to the Romans (14:7-9). In this short but powerful passage, Paul lays it out clearly that we are not here on this earth all by our self. Rather, we are here to fulfill our part in God’s great Plan of Salvation and we must do it in conjunction with others.

The Gospel Reading is from the Gospel of Matthew (18:21-35). This teaching, directly from Jesus, is a great example of mercy in action and in refusing to be merciful. It is a sad account of a person pleading mercy for himself and yet refusing to give it to someone else. As I mentioned above, we are all here to help each other and our final reward will be measured by how well we helped others. I have experienced people who have shut their door to others but say copious prayers for mercy and other blessings for themselves. This is another example of the same situation being presented by Jesus in this Gospel passage, and so we must learn to: “Do unto others as you would want them to do to you.” This is what mercy is all about.

MESSAGE FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE

CCD will be opening this year according to the CDC guidelines. Please get your registrations in as soon as possible. Further information on how the classes will be running will be forthcoming.

LECTORS
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2020
5:30 P.M.  Pat Demarest

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2020
7:30 A.M.  Barbara Garruto
10:00 A.M.  Sue Kummer
12 NOON  Joe Darlington
SIR 27:30—28:7
Wrath and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight. The vengeful will suffer the LORD’s vengeance, for he remembers their sins in detail. Forgive your neighbor’s injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven. Could anyone nourish anger against another and expect healing from the LORD? Could anyone refuse mercy to another like himself, can he seek pardon for his own sins? If one who is but flesh cherishes wrath, who will forgive his sins? Remember your last days, set enmity aside; remember death and decay, and cease from sin! Think of the commandments, hate not your neighbor; remember the Most High’s covenant, and overlook faults.

Responsorial Psalm 103
The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion. Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all my being, bless his holy name. Less the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. He pardons all your iniquities, heals all your ills. He redeems our life from destruction, crowns you with kindness and compassion.

Reading 2 ROM 14:7-9
Brothers and sisters: None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Alleluia

MT 18:21-35
Peter approached Jesus and asked him, “Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus answered, “I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times. That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the accounting, a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount. Since he had no way of paying it back, his master ordered him to be sold, along with his wife, his children, and all his property, in payment of the debt. At that, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full.’ Moved with compassion the master of that servant let him go and forgave him the loan. When that servant had left, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a much smaller amount. He seized him and started to choke him, demanding, ‘Pay back what you owe.’ Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’ But he refused. Instead, he had the fellow servant put in prison until he paid back the debt. Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master and reported the whole affair. His master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?’ Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt. So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart.”